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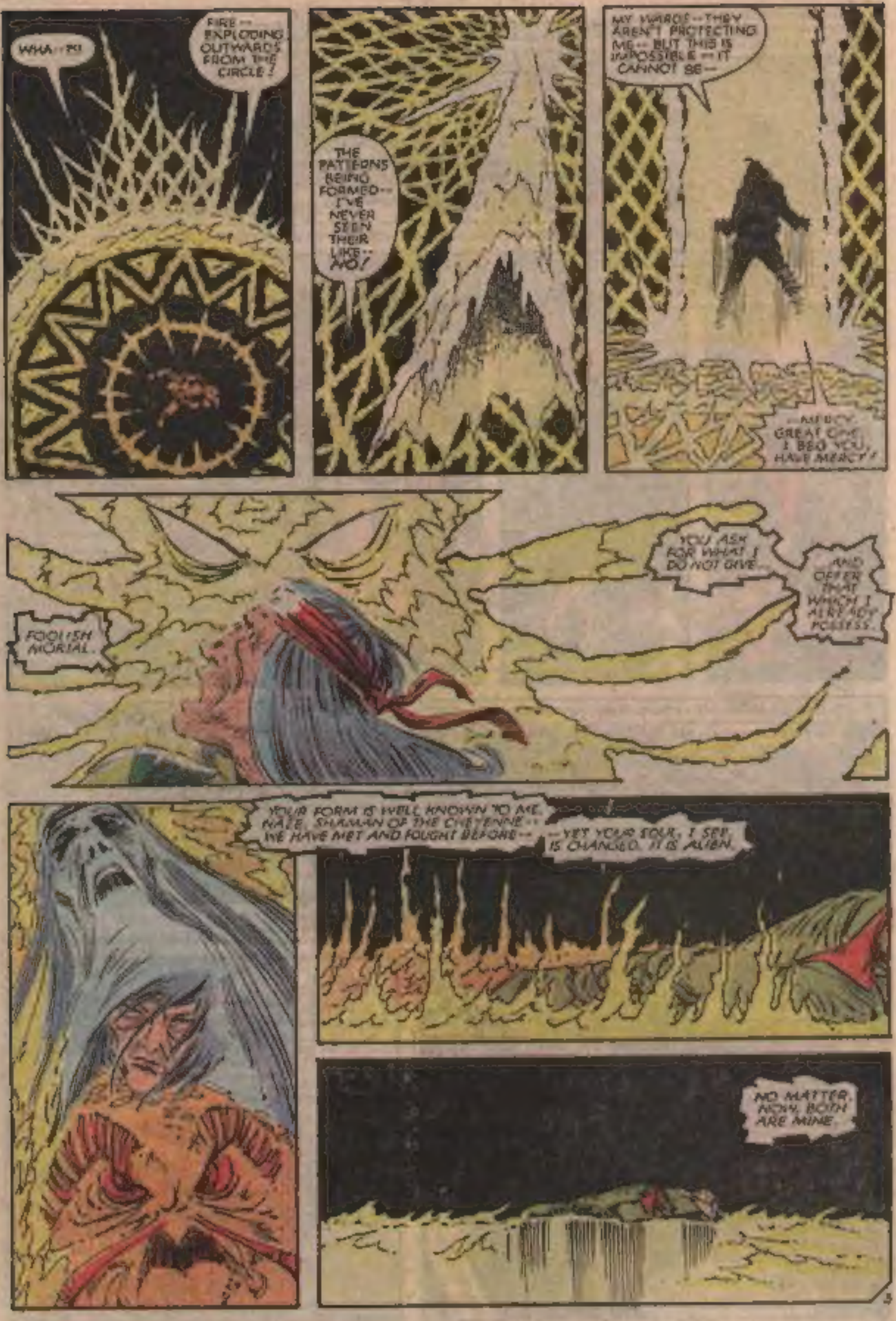
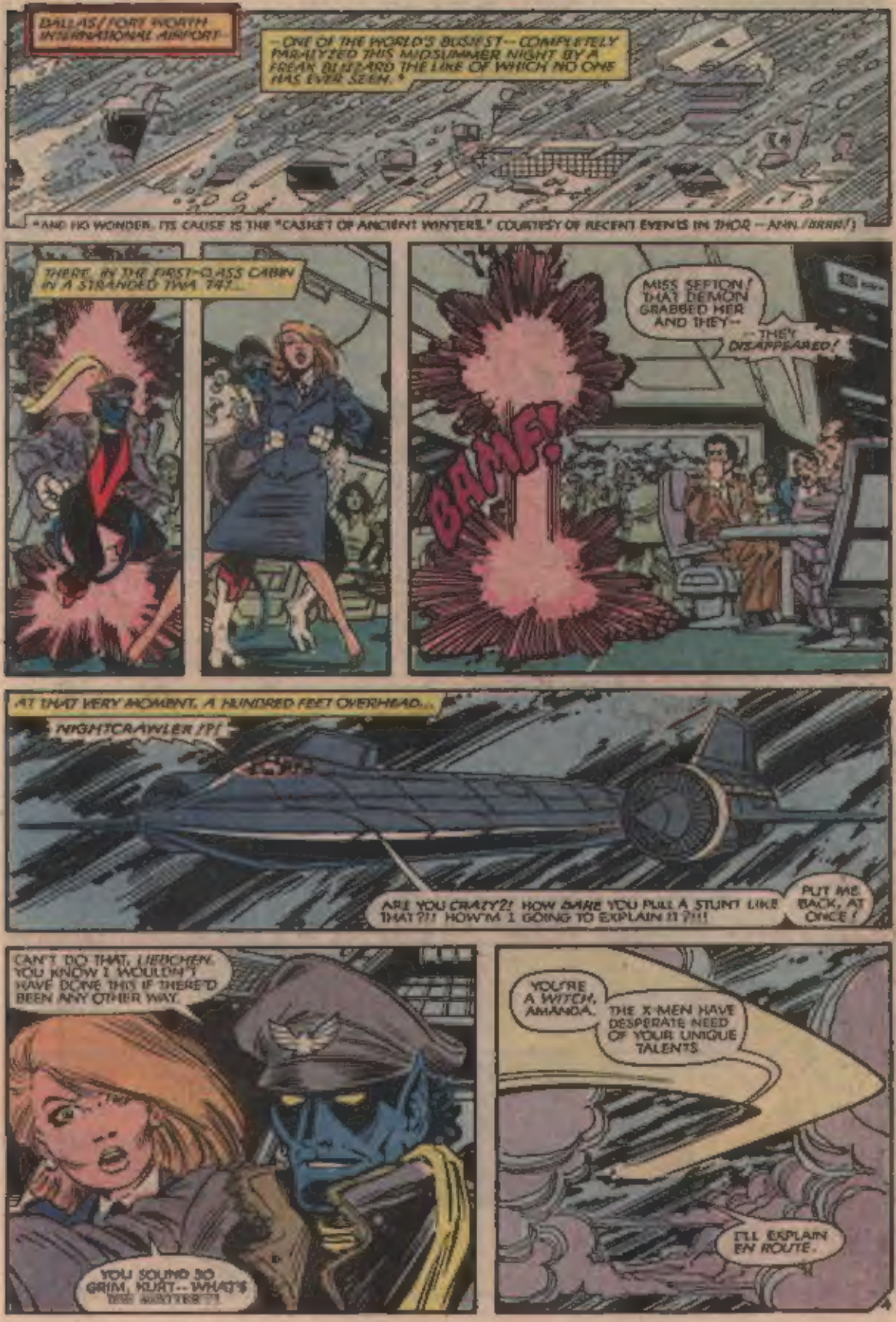
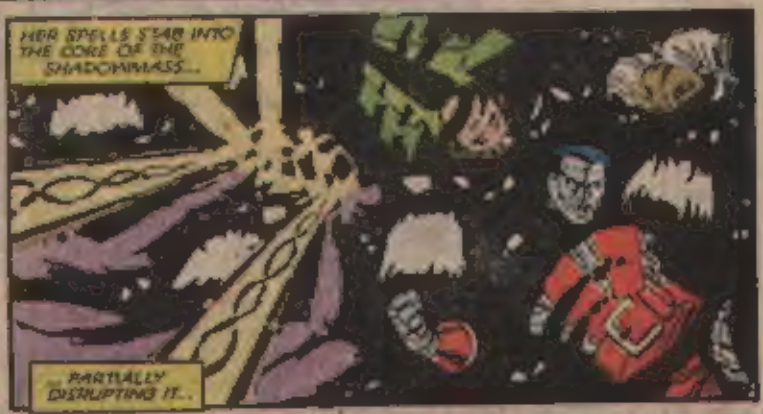
OUR WEAPONS -- OUR FISTS -- HAVE NO EFFECT ON THESE CREATURES.
THEY DON'T SEEM TO POSSESS PHYSICAL SUBSTANCE.
STORM, USE YOUR BLASTER ON MY ARTIFICIAL LEG. IF I CAN GET FREE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP US ALL!
THE SHADOWBEINGS SEEM TO SENSE MY INTENT. THEY ARE TRYING TO STOP ME!
CAREFUL, WOMAN! YOU ALMOST HIT ME!
IF I DO -- WHEN I DO -- REST ASSURED, FORGE, IT SHALL NOT BE BY ACCIDENT.
SHE MEANS THAT.
PAL, WHEN YOU MAKE YOURSELF AN ENEMY, YOU DON'T FOOL AROUND.
CONSIDERING WHAT I DID TO HER, THOUGH, IT'S PROBABLY NO LESS THAN WHAT I DESERVE.
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. STORM'S GIVEN YOU A CHANCE. DON'T BLOW IT!
I GET THE SAME EMANATIONS OFF THESE SHADOWBEINGS AS I DID OFF THE WRAITHS -- THEY MUST BE MYSTICAL IN NATURE. THEY MERGE THEIR SUBSTANCE WITH OUR FLESH, TURNING US INTO CREATURES LIKE THEMSELVES.
THEY DIDN'T AFFECT ME AS MUCH AS THE OTHERS BECAUSE OF MY METAL PROSTHESIS. DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE BEFORE THE PROCESS BECOMES IRREVERSIBLE -- I MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
NAZE!
ANSWER ME, OLD MAN. THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOUR IDIOT GAMES. WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU, SHAMAN?! I NEED YOU! NAZE?!!
HOWEVER, UPSTAIRS, AT THE VERY APEX OF FORGE'S PENTHOUSE COMPLEX, IN THE CENTER OF A SACRED RING...
HEAR ME, GREAT ONE!
I COME IN HUMBLE SUPPLICATION -- AID MY PEOPLE IN THE HOUR OF OUR GREATEST PERIL.
IN EXCHANGE, WE OFFER THIS WORLD AND ALL ON IT!
-- TO DO WITH AS YOU WILL.


WHA--?!
FIRE -- EXPLODING OUTWARD FROM THE CIRCLE!
THE PATTERNS BEING FORMED-- I'VE NEVER SEEN THEIR LIKE-- AHO!
MY WARDS -- THEY AREN'T PROTECTING ME -- BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE -- IT CANNOT BE--
--MERCY, GREAT ONE, I BEG YOU, HAVE MERCY!
FOOLISH MORTAL.
YOU ASK FOR WHAT I DO NOT GIVE--
AND OFFER THAT WHICH I ALREADY POSSESS.
YOUR FORM IS WELL KNOWN TO ME, NAZE, SHAMAN OF THE CHEYENNE-- WE HAVE MET AND FOUGHT BEFORE--
--YET YOUR FORM, I SEE, IS CHANGED. IT IS ALIEN.
NO MATTER. NOW, BOTH ARE MINE.

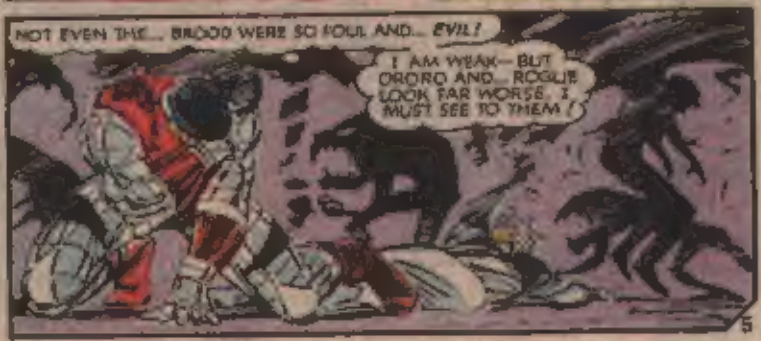

DALLAS/FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT--
--ONE OF THE WORLD'S BUSIEST-- COMPLETELY PARALYZED THIS MIDSUMMER NIGHT BY A FREAK BLIZZARD THE LIKE OF WHICH NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN.*
*AND NO WONDER. ITS CAUSE IS THE "CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS," COURTESY OF RECENT EVENTS IN THOR -- ANN./BRRR!)
THERE, IN THE FIRST-CLASS CABIN OF A STRANDED TWA 747...
MISS SEFTON! THAT DEMON GRABBED HER AND THEY--
--THEY DISAPPEARED!
BAMF!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A HUNDRED FEET OVERHEAD...
NIGHTCRAWLER !P!
ARE YOU CRAZY?! HOW DARE YOU PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT?!! HOW'M I GOING TO EXPLAIN IT?!!!
PUT ME BACK, AT ONCE!
CAN'T DO THAT, LIEFCHEN. YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS IF THERE'D BEEN ANY OTHER WAY.
YOU SOUND SO GRIM, KURT-- WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
YOU'RE A WITCH, AMANDA.
THE X-MEN HAVE DESPERATE NEED OF YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS.
I'LL EXPLAIN EN ROUTE.

AFTER PROGRAMMING THE X-MEN'S SPECIALLY MODIFIED SR-71 BLACKBIRD AIRCRAFT TO HOVER SAFELY ABOVE EAGLE PLAZA...
...THE GERMAN-BORN MUTANT TELEPORTS HIS LADY-LOVE INTO FONGE'S PENTHOUSE.
THE SIGHT THAT GREETS THEM ISN'T PRETTY.
ZUM TUEFEL...!
SAVE THEM, AMANDA, IF YOU CAN!

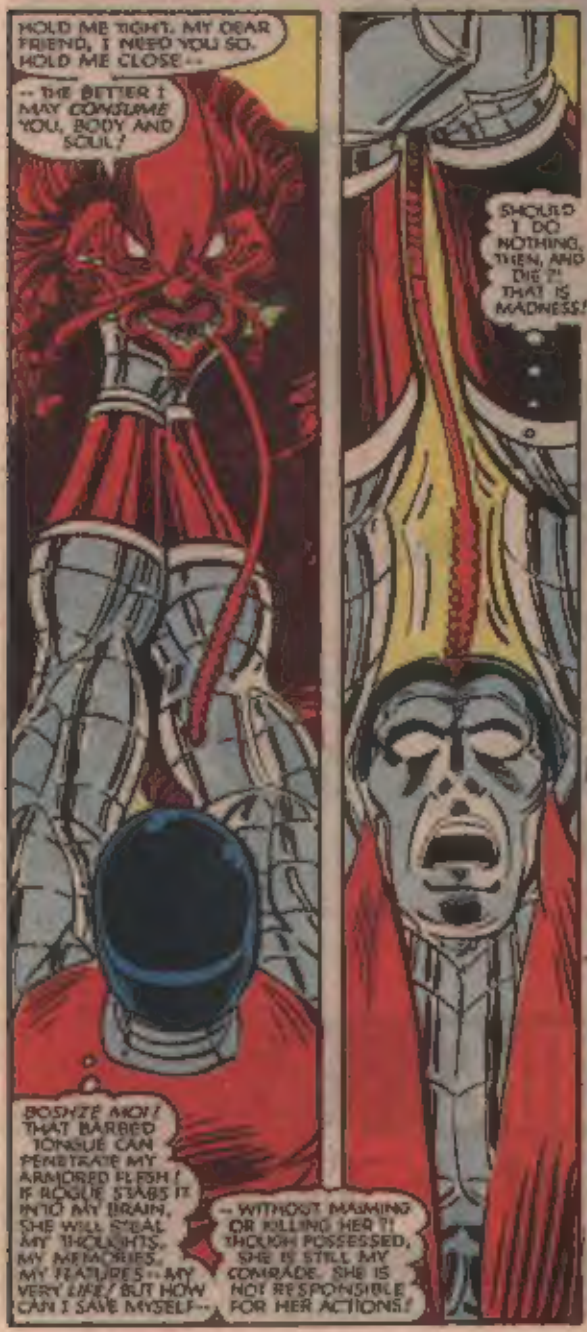
I'LL DO MY BEST, MOM.
MOTHER WHEREVER YOU ARE, GIVE ME STRENGTH!

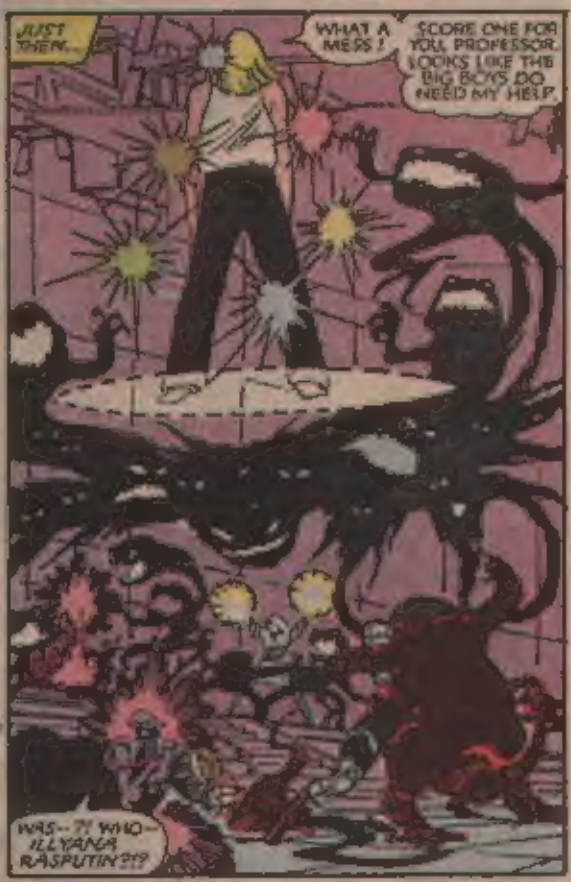

HER SPELLS STAB INTO THE CORE OF THE SHADOWMASS...
...PARTIALLY DISRUPTING IT...

...AND ALLOWING SOME OF THE X-MEN TO STRUGGLE FREE.

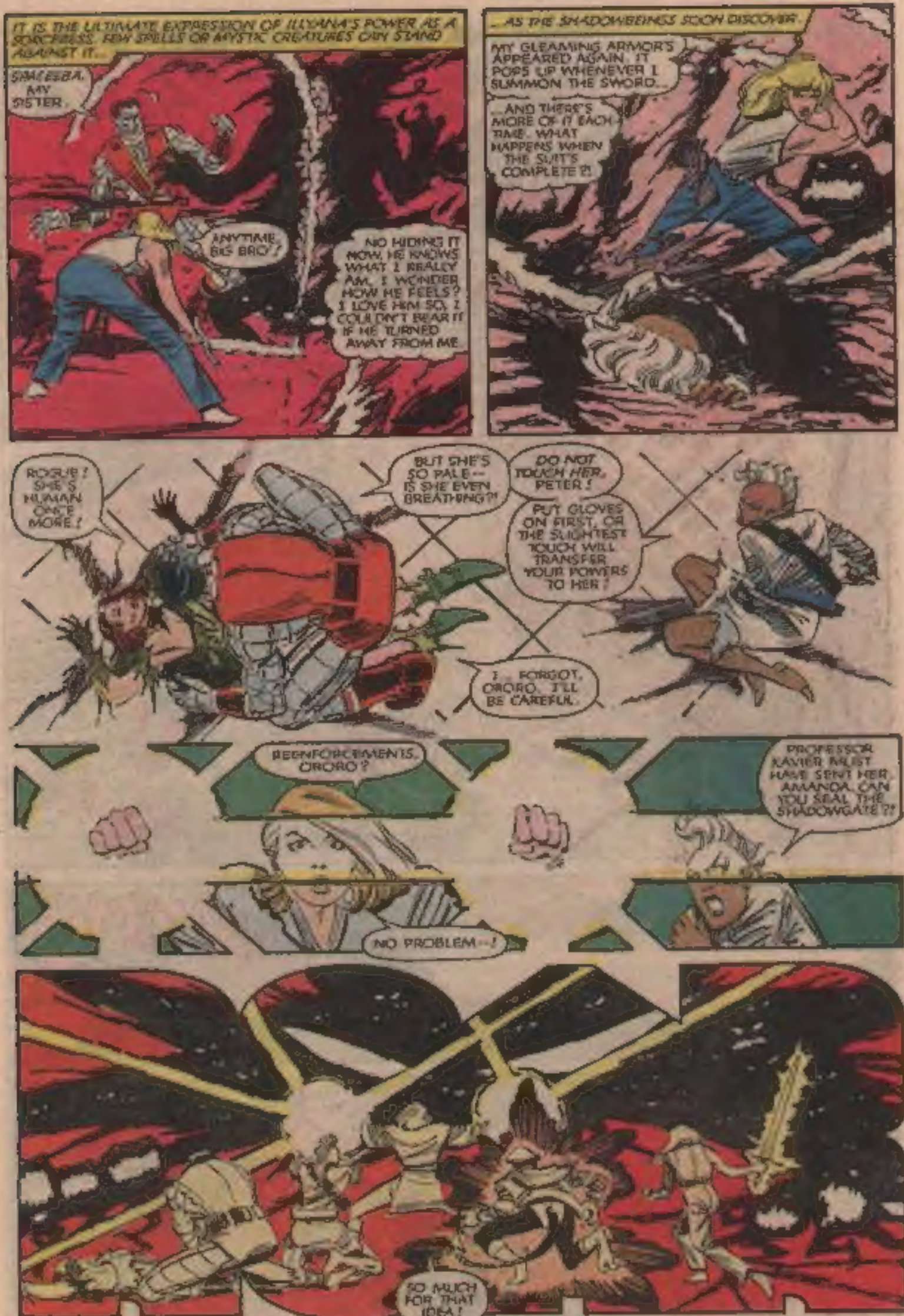

NOT EVEN THE... BROOD WERE SO FOUL AND... EVIL!
I AM WEAK— BUT ORORO AND... ROGUE LOOK FAR WORSE. I MUST SEE TO THEM!

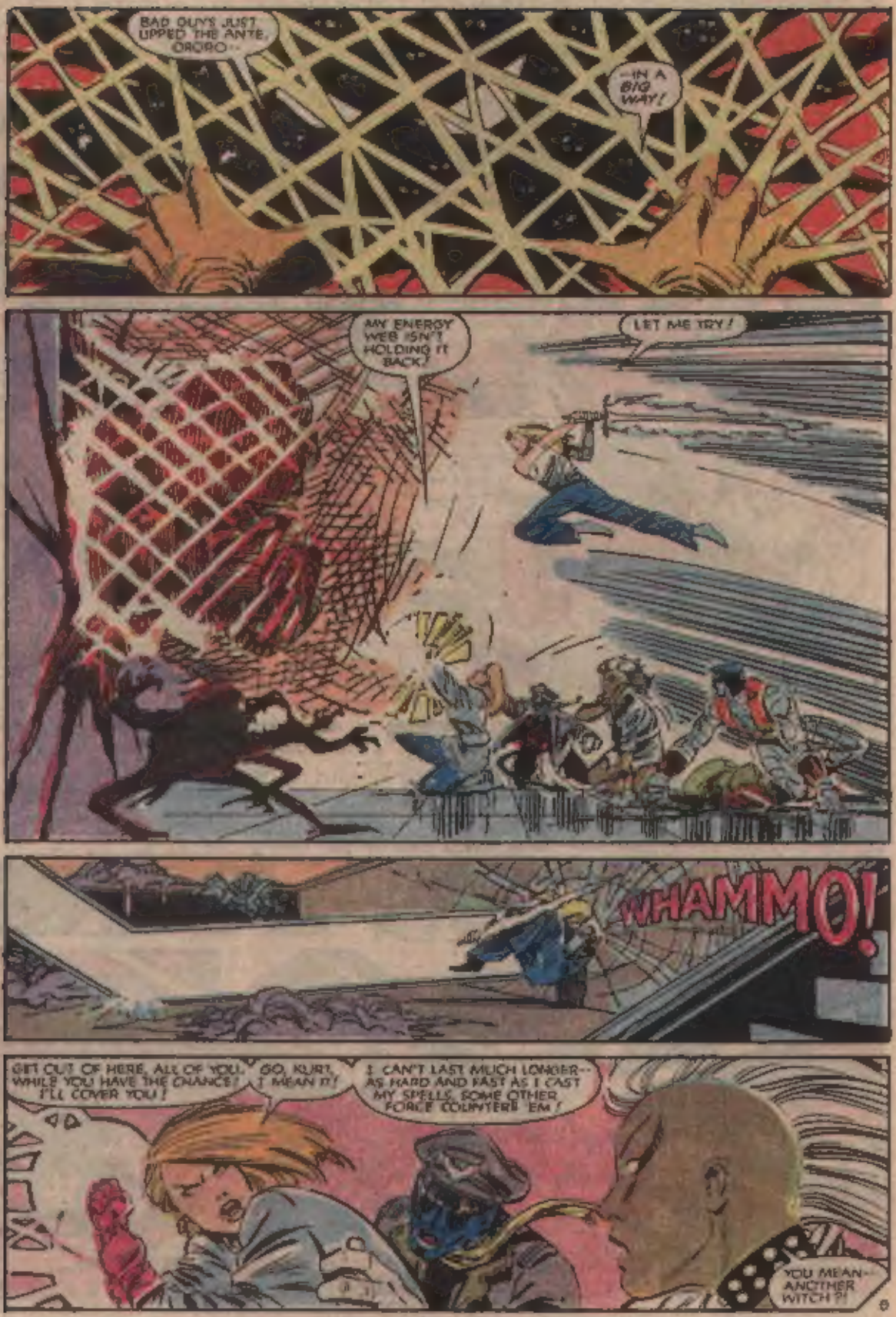
PSSH-SH-SH ARRK BRKRR--
--TOO LATE!
BY THE WHITE WOLF!!
ROGUE ABSORBS THE ABILITIES AND PERSONALITIES OF ANY LIVING THING SHE TOUCHES--HER CONTACT WITH THESE HORRORS IS TRANSFORMING HER INTO A WRAITH!


HOLD ME TIGHT, MY DEAR FRIEND, I NEED YOU SO. HOLD ME CLOSE--
--THE BETTER I MAY CONSUME YOU, BODY AND SOUL!
SHOULD I DO NOTHING, THEN, AND DIE?! THAT IS MADNESS!
BOSHTE MOI! THAT BARBED TONGUE CAN PENETRATE MY ARMORED FLESH! IF ROGUE STABS IT INTO MY BRAIN, SHE WILL STEAL MY THOUGHTS, MY MEMORIES, MY FEATURES--MY VERY LIFE! BUT HOW CAN I SAVE MYSELF--
--WITHOUT MAIMING OR KILLING HER?! THOUGH POSSESSED, SHE IS STILL MY COMRADE. SHE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HER ACTIONS!

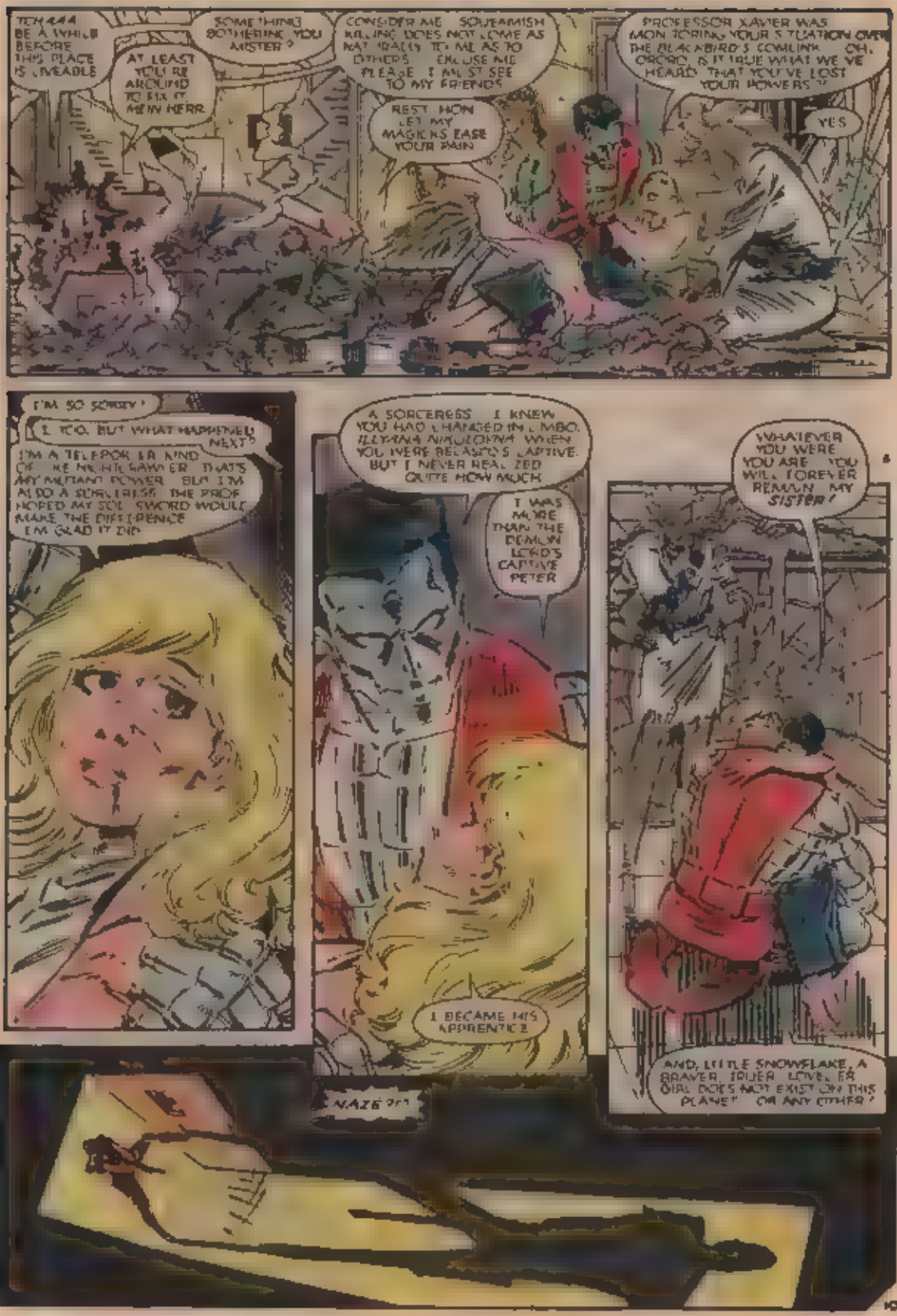

JUST THEN...
WHAT A MESS!
SCORE ONE FOR YOU, PROFESSOR. LOOKS LIKE THE BIG BOYS DO NEED MY HELP.
WAS--?! WHO--ILLYANA RASPUTIN?!?

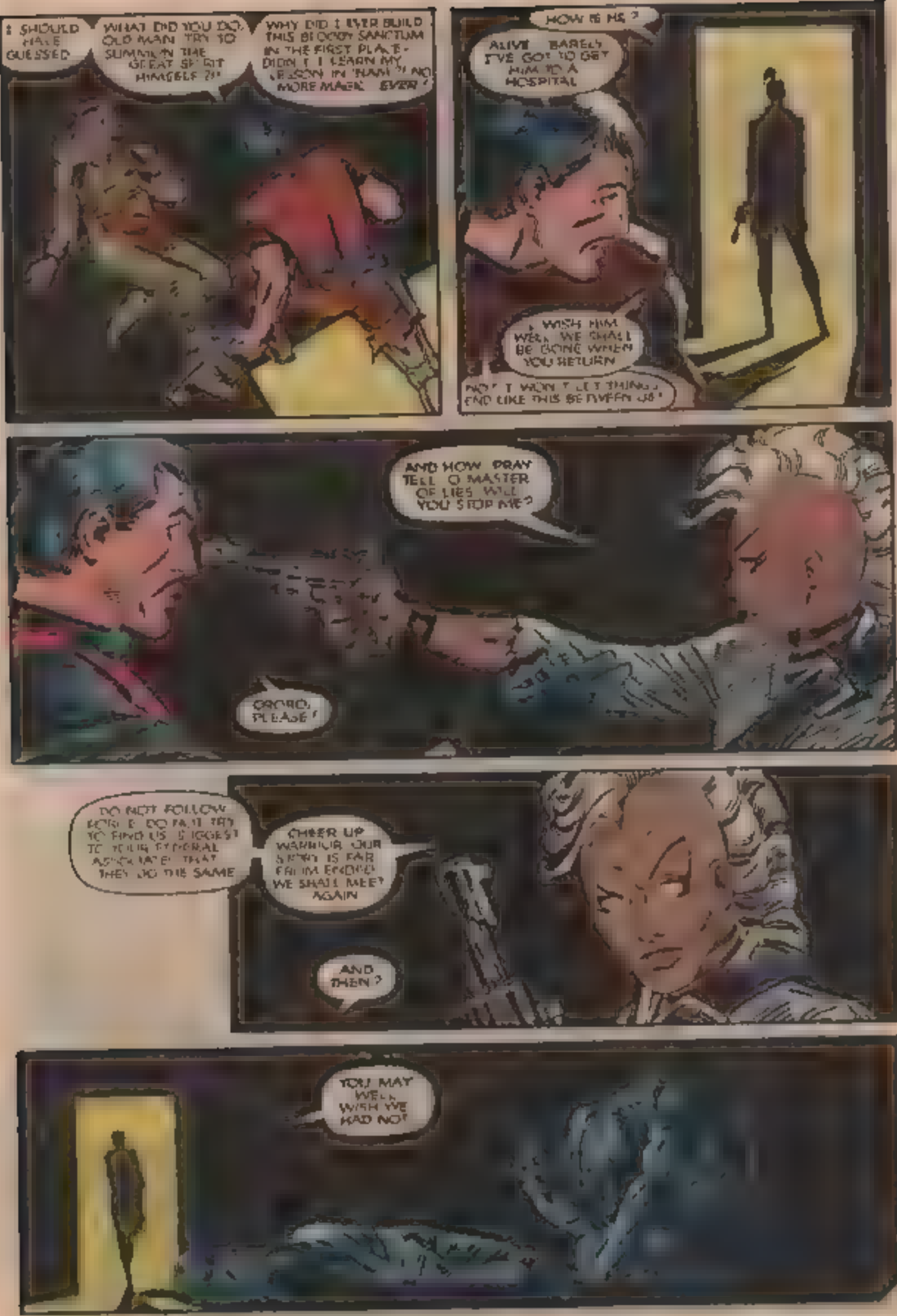
TROUBLE IS, MY MAGICKS AREN'T TOO TERRIBLY EFFECTIVE ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE. THE ONLY REAL WEAPON I'VE GOT IS MY SOULSWORD!
ON CUE, THE ELDRITCH BLADE APPEARS, LIKE ITS YOUNG MISTRESS, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE.


IT IS THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF ILLYANA'S POWER AS A SORCERESS. FEW SPELLS OR MYSTIC CREATURES CAN STAND AGAINST IT...
SAMEEDA, MY SISTER.
ANYTIME, BIG BRO!
NO HIDING IT NOW. HE KNOWS WHAT I REALLY AM. I WONDER HOW HE FEELS? I LOVE HIM SO, I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF HE TURNED AWAY FROM ME.
...AS THE SHADOWBEINGS SOON DISCOVER.
MY GLEAMING ARMOR'S APPEARED AGAIN. IT POPS UP WHENEVER I SUMMON THE SWORD...
...AND THERE'S MORE OF IT BACK HERE. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SUIT'S COMPLETE?!
ROGUE! SHE'S HUMAN ONCE MORE!
BUT SHE'S SO PALE -- IS SHE EVEN BREATHING?!
DO NOT TOUCH HER, PETER!
PUT GLOVES ON FIRST, OR THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH WILL TRANSFER YOUR POWERS TO HER!
I FORGOT, ORORO. I'LL BE CAREFUL.
REINFORCEMENTS, ORORO?
PROFESSOR XAVIER MUST HAVE SENT HER, AMANDA. CAN YOU SEAL THE SHADOWGATE?!
NO PROBLEM--!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA!


BAD GUY'S JUST UPPED THE ANTE, ORORO--
--IN A BIG WAY!
MY ENERGY WEB ISN'T HOLDING IT BACK!
LET ME TRY!
WHAMMO!
GET OUT OF HERE, ALL OF YOU! WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE! I'LL COVER YOU!
GO, KURT. I MEAN IT!
I CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER-- AS HARD AND FAST AS I CAST MY SPELLS, SOME OTHER FORCE COUNTERS 'EM!
YOU MEAN-- ANOTHER WITCH?!

THE WRAITHS ARE WITCHES. WE THOUGHT THEM ALL SLAIN -- BUT SUPPOSE WE WERE WRONG?!
THE ROOF, NIGHTCRAWLER -- TELEPORT UP THERE, NOW!
BUT WHY?! AMANDA -- I WON'T LEAVE --!
"YOU HEARD THE LADY, FURRY -- DO IT!
I'M COMIN' WITH YOU!
BAMF!
IF YOU INSIST, HERR FORGE. BUT I WARN YOU...
IT ISN'T A PLEASANT RIDE.
YOU GET USED TO IT. WHAT DO WE LOOKING FOR?
THAT'S AN UNDER-STATEMENT. I FEEL TURNED INSIDE-OUT!
STORM FOUGHT A WRAITH UP HERE. SHE LOCKED IT OUT.
BUGGERS'RE EXTRAORDINARILY SENSITIVE TO COLD. SHE FIGURED IT'D FREEZE TO DEATH
SHE SHOULD'VE MADE SURE.
TOO WEAK FOR ITS SPELLS TO BASH THE DOOR DOWN, BUT STILL ABLE TO GIVE YOUR LADY FITS.
ENJOY YOUR TRIUMPH, MAMMA! WHILE IT LASTS!
ZAPOW!
WE HAVE LAID CLAIM TO YOUR WORLD AND WE WILL NOT BE DENIED!
FORGE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
DON'T ASK FOOLISH QUESTIONS, X-MAN.


TECH 444 BE A WHILE BEFORE THIS PLACE IS LIVEABLE
AT LEAST YOU'RE AROUND TO FIX IT MEIN HERR
SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU MISTER?
CONSIDER ME SQUEAMISH KILLING DOES NOT COME AS NATURALLY TO ME AS TO OTHERS EXCUSE ME PLEASE I MUST SEE TO MY FRIENDS
REST NOW LET MY MAGICKS EASE YOUR PAIN
PROFESSOR XAVIER WAS MONITORING YOUR SITUATION OVER THE BLACKBIRD'S COMLINK OH, ORORO, IS IT TRUE WHAT WE'VE HEARD THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR POWERS?
YES
I'M SO SORRY!
I, TOO. BUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
I'M A TELEPORTER KIND OF ME NIGHTCRAWLER THAT'S MY MUTANT POWER BUT I'M ALSO A SWORDLESS THE PROPHECY MY SOUL SWORD WOULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE I'M GLAD IT DID
A SORCERESS I KNEW YOU HAD CHANGED IN LIMBO. ILLYANA NIKOLEVNA WHEN YOU WERE BELASCO'S CAPTIVE. BUT I NEVER REALIZED QUITE HOW MUCH
I WAS MORE THAN THE DEMON LORD'S CAPTIVE PETER
I BECAME HIS APPRENTICE
WHATEVER YOU WERE YOU ARE YOU WILL FOREVER REMAIN MY SISTER!
AND, LITTLE SNOWFLAKE, A BRAVER, TRUER LOVELIER GIRL DOES NOT EXIST ON THIS PLANET OR ANY OTHER!
NAZE 91


I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED
WHAT DID YOU DO, OLD MAN TRY TO SUMMON THE GREAT SPIRIT HIMSELF ?!
WHY DID I EVER BUILD THIS BLOODY SANCTUM IN THE FIRST PLACE - DIDN'T I LEARN MY LESSON IN 'NAM ?! NO MORE MAGIC EVER !
HOW IS HE ?
ALIVE BARELY I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL
I WISH HIM WELL WE SHALL BE DONE WHEN YOU RETURN
NO ! I WON'T LET THINGS END LIKE THIS BETWEEN US !
AND HOW PRAY TELL O MASTER OF LIES WILL YOU STOP ME?
ORORO, PLEASE !
DO NOT FOLLOW BOSS ! DO NOT TRY TO FIND US ! I DIGEST TO YOUR FEMORAL ARTERY THAT THEY DO THE SAME
CHEER UP WARRIOR OUR STORY IS FAR FROM ENDED WE SHALL MEET AGAIN
AND THEN ?
YOU MAY WELL WISH WE HAD NOT

ROUGHLY TH[illegible] OF THE NEAREST DERELICT
MAN IN THE WATER OFF THE PORT QUARTER!
MAN IN THE WATER!!
SHARK GUN PAOLO, FAST!
KB KR
NOT WITH THE NETS LIKE THAT WE'RE STUCK WHERE WE ARE
WHAT'S A POOR GIRL SUPPOSED TO
POOR GUY'S A GONER

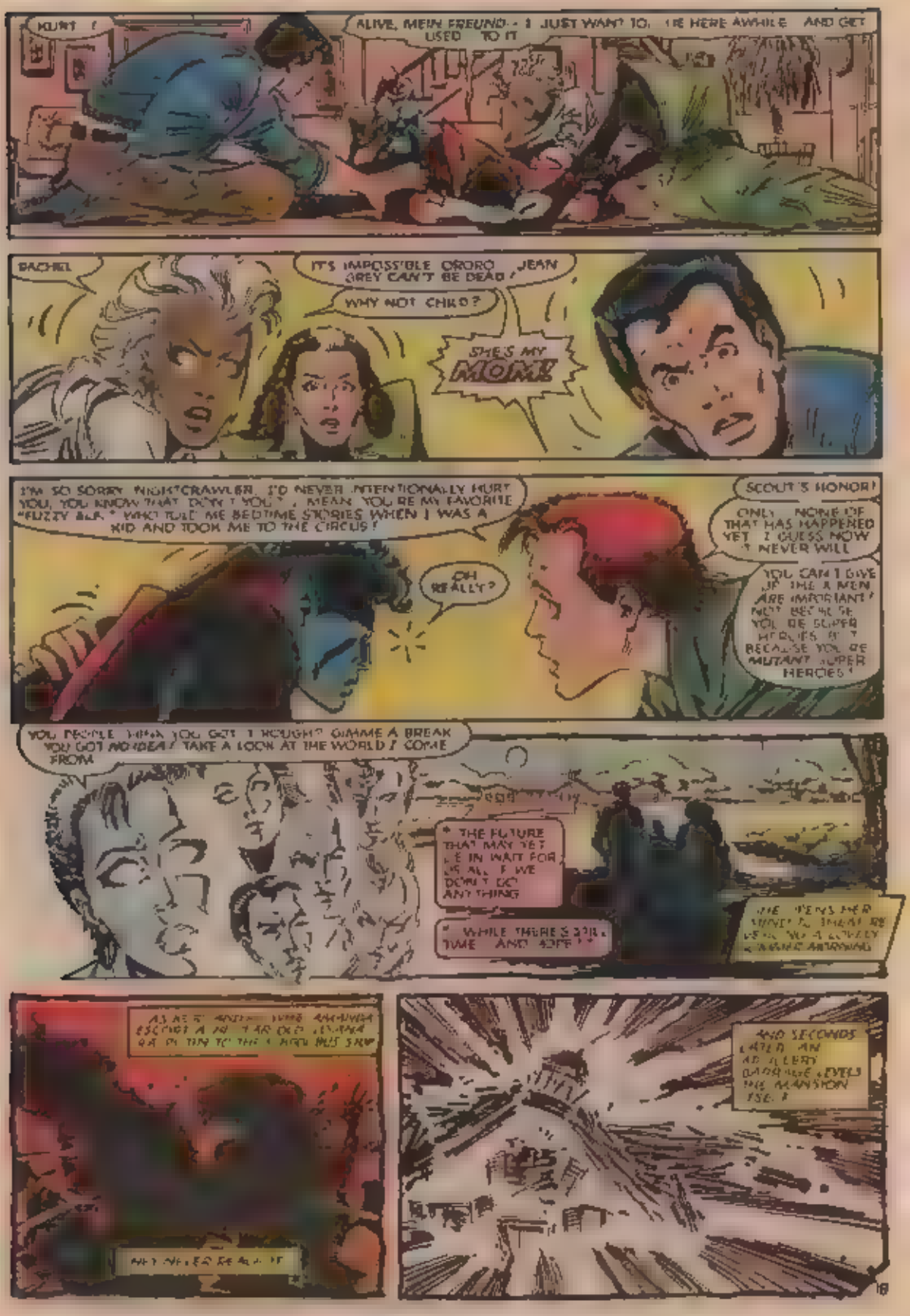
HE'S MOVING! HE'S STILL ALIVE!
COVER ME PAOLO!
ALWAYS FORGETTER ARE YOU CRAZY!
AND TIME TO DISMISS THE JOKE! I'LL HAVE TO SWIM FOR HIM!
WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S GOT A PASSEL OF SAINTS SITTING ON HIS SHOULDERS
A GREAT WHITE THAT SIZE SHOULD'VE BITTEN HIM IN HALF!
NO BOAT NO WRECKAGE
NO DOUBT GUARD ALERTS - HOW'D THIS GUY GET WAY OUT HERE ANYWAY?
PAOLO'S SHOOTING THE SHARK!
BEAT IT BUSTER!
TRY SOMETHING ELSE FOR LUNCH!
AL DUMB HEAD PULLIN A STUPID STUNT LIKE THAT!
SUPPOSE YOU'D MISSED THAT FISH'D TAKEN OFF YOUR BLAME LEG!!
DON'T YELL PAOLO AND DON'T CALL ME "BROAD"
GET THE MECHANICAL M-?
WHY THIS CRAZY S/IT'S MADE O CHAIN MAIL!
SAVED YOUR LIFE MISTER
AND I SPOSE POLARIS AS WELL AS HIM MORBIUS
LEB YOU KNOW THIS FELLA?
MAGNETO!

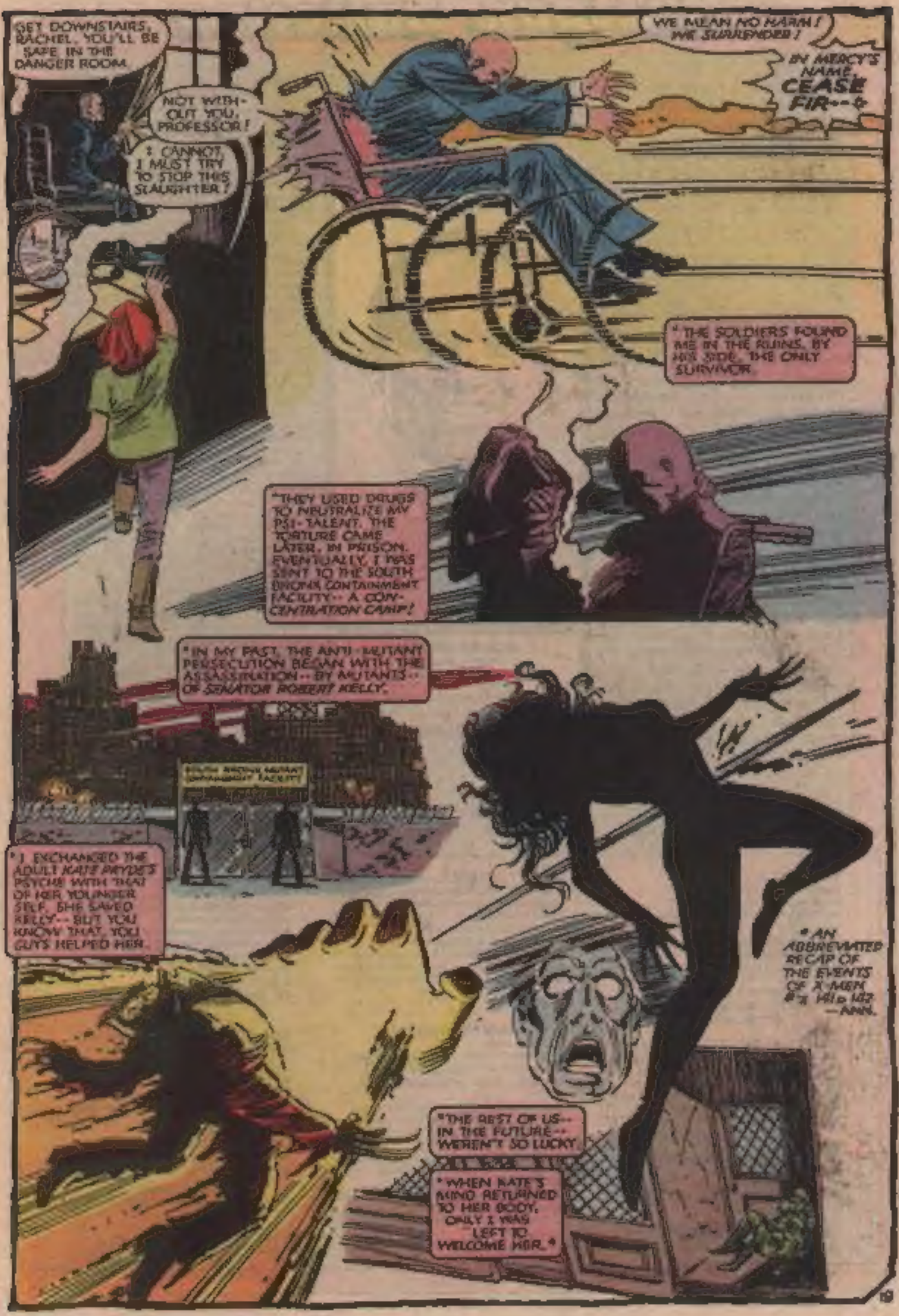
JOIN ME FOR A SWIM KURT
I'LL PASS I LIKE ORORO
WATER AND FUR DON'T MIX
HERE'S YOUR TOWEL
BESS YOU I AM STILL NOT USED TO FEELING COLD
THE PROFESSOR SAYS YOUR POWERS ARE COMPLETELY GONE
AS IF THEY HAD NEVER BEEN THE GENETIC POTENTIAL EXISTS MY CHILDREN OR THEIR MAY HONORON COMMAND THE WEATHER AS I DID
BUT NOT I
I AM NOT THE FINAL OF THE WORD NO DARLING EIK OR EVEN OLD MINE I AM A GROWN WOMAN I HAVE SURVIVED
I WILL SURVIVE
ORORO ASKED THE PROFESSOR TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE X MEN
SO?
I AM NO LONGER A MUTANT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY PLACE FOR ME HERE
PERHAPS NOT FOR ANY OF US
DO IT AS A FAVOR TO ME THEN I NEED YOU BY MY SIDE THIS LAST TIME MORE THAN EVER

THEY STILL AT IT RACHEL?
UH HUH KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN ILYANA THEY'LL HEAR
THE X-MEN AND THE PROF HAVE BEEN IN H'S STUDY FOR HOURS!
THEY CALLED WOLVERINE IN JAPAN BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM TO COME HOME SOMETHING'S IF KITTY'S OUTSIDE THEM TO BUT HE WON'T TELL WHAT AND HE INSISTED HE'D HANDLE IT HIMSELF
SOUNDS REAL GRIM I HOPE KITTY'S OKAY
WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK MEAN?
THEY'RE ARGUING ROGER TO SO IT CAN'T BE GOOD
OURS IS A PRIVATE DISCUSSION, CHILDREN
PROFESSOR XAVIER!
THE HOUR IS LONG PAST YOU'D BEST BE PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS I'LL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS IN THE MORNING GOOD NIGHT
YOU COMING RAHNE? WHEN HE USES THAT TONE OF VOICE HE MEANS BUSINESS
I KNOW GO AHEAD ILYANA I'LL BE OKAY
I'M A TELEPATH, PROFESSOR JUST LIKE YOU I COULDN'T SHIELD THESE SEXY THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PSI SCANS
BUT HIDING MYSELF ALONE IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY
I KNOW YOU'LL BE ANGRY WITH ME I DON'T CARE I HAVE TO KNOW
I WASN'T A SUPER VILLAIN THAT MAIMED STORM HERR PROFESSOR BUT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!
IT WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT NIGHTCRAWLER NOTHING MORE
WHEN SENATOR ROBERT KELLY'S MUTANT AFFAIRS CONTROL ACT WAS IN DEBATE NO ONE TOOK IT SERIOUSLY YET TODAY IT IS GIVEN A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF BEING ENACTED INTO LAW
15

WE LIVE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY! IN AN AGE WHERE MEN HAVE WALKED ON THE MOON AND SOME OF US JOURNEYED TO THE STARS. WE HAVE SPLIT THE ATOM. THE SECRETS OF SPACE AND TIME ARE OURS FOR THE ASKING!
YET WHEN YOU FOUND ME... NOT SO MANY YEARS AGO - I WAS BEING HUNTED BY A MOB
WHO WANTED TO DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH MY HEART BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED I WAS A DEMON!
I HOPED JOINING THE X-MEN WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THAT THINGS WOULD GET BETTER FOR MUTANTKIND INSTEAD THEY'VE GOTTEN WORSE
WE ARE STILL HATED. STILL HOUNDED BY THE VERY PEOPLE WE HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT
SO I FIND MYSELF ASKING WHO... WHAT'S THE POINT...
WOULD YOU RATHER FOLLOW MAGNETO'S WAY BY CONQUERING THE WORLD AND ENSLAVING HUMANITY?!
IN TRUTH I'D RATHER NOT BE BOTHERED AT ALL
IF THE WORLD CARES NOTHING FOR MUTANTS. FINE, THE FEELING'S MUTUAL
WHAT OF THE X-MEN?
WHAT OF US? FORGIVE ME BUT WHO NEEDS US WHAT PURPOSE DO WE SERVE?!
THE SCHOOL. YES, THAT FULFILLS A DESPERATE NEED. YOUNG MUTANTS MUST BE TAUGHT THE USE OF THEIR POWERS. BUT AS FOR THE REST LET THE AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR HANDLE THAT BURDEN
THEY'RE POPULAR THEY'RE ACCEPTED LEAVE US, THEN, TO LIVE IN PEACE
DO YOU REALLY THINK RUNNING AWAY IS THE ANSWER?!
AT LEAST I'LL BE LIVING FOR MYSELF AND THE WOMAN I LOVE. INSTEAD OF SOME AMORPHOUS DREAM. DOES THAT SOUND SELFISH? WELL, I FEEL I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT. WE ALL HAVE. LOOK AT US. PROFESSOR
OF THE X-MEN YOU GATHERED BANSHEE AND STORM MARRIED. THUNDERBIRD... KILLED!
JEAN GREY KILLED!! WHERE WILL IT END?
16

KILLED! JEAN GREY KILLED!
JEAN GREY DEAD?
YES.
YOU'RE LYING NICK CRAVEN! LYING!
TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE!
AIRRRGH!
RACHEL PROJECT NO PSYCHIC AS FORMIDABLE AS MY OWN
SHE ISN'T THIS POWERFUL IN NORTH ALLEY BUT RACHEL AND I SENSE GRIEF ARE GIVING HER A BERSERKER'S STRENGTH!
RACHEL! STOP THIS!
LET ANGLO OR YOU'LL BE KILLING HIM!
IT HAS TO BE
I SPOKE TO MY DAD! I HEARD MOM'S VOICE HE'S ALIVE!
PLEASE LET IT BE A LIE
WHOOUFF!


KURT !
ALIVE, MEIN FREUND - I JUST WANT TO BE HERE AWHILE AND GET USED TO IT
RACHEL
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ORORO ! JEAN GREY CAN'T BE DEAD !
WHY NOT CHIO ?
SHE'S MY MOM!
I'M SO SORRY NIGHTCRAWLER, I'D NEVER INTENTIONALLY HURT YOU, YOU KNOW THAT DON'T YOU ? I MEAN YOU'RE MY FAVORITE "FUZZY BLA" WHO TOLD ME BEDTIME STORIES WHEN I WAS A KID AND TOOK ME TO THE CIRCUS !
OH, REALLY ?
SCOUT'S HONOR !
ONLY NONE OF THAT HAS HAPPENED YET I GUESS NOW IT NEVER WILL
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ! THE X-MEN ARE IMPORTANT ! NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE SUPER HEROES BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE MUTANT SUPER HEROES !
YOU PEOPLE THINK YOU GOT IT TOUGH ? GIMME A BREAK YOU GOT NO IDEA ! TAKE A LOOK AT THE WORLD I COME FROM
" THE FUTURE THAT MAY YET BE IN WAIT FOR US ALL IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING
" WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME AND HOPE ! "
THE TEENS HER SHOULD BE DEAD NOW A LOVELY CHANCE ARRIVING
AS WE'D ANTICIPATED ANOTHER ESCAPE ATTEMPT WAS UNDERWAY
WE NEED TO TALK !
AND SECONDS LATER AN ALERT CAPTAIN'S EYES SCANNED THE MANSION
ESE !
16


GET DOWNSTAIRS, RACHEL. YOU'LL BE SAFE IN THE DANGER ROOM.
NOT WITHOUT YOU, PROFESSOR!
I CANNOT. I MUST TRY TO STOP THIS SLAUGHTER!
WE MEAN NO HARM! WE SURRENDER!
IN MERCY'S NAME, CEASE FIR--
"THE SOLDIERS FOUND ME IN THE RUINS, BY HER SIDE. THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
"THEY USED DRUGS TO NEUTRALIZE MY PSI-TALENT. THE TORTURE CAME LATER, IN PRISON. EVENTUALLY, I WAS SENT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONTAINMENT FACILITY-- A CONCENTRATION CAMP!
"IN MY PAST, THE ANTI-MUTANT PERSECUTION BEGAN WITH THE ASSASSINATION-- BY MUTANTS-- OF SENATOR ROBERT KELLY.
"I EXCHANGED THE ADULT KATE PRYDE'S PSYCHE WITH THAT OF HER YOUNGER SELF. SHE SAVED KELLY-- BUT YOU KNOW THAT. YOU GUYS HELPED HER.
"AN ABBREVIATED RECAP OF THE EVENTS OF X-MEN #'S 141 & 142 --ANN.
"THE REST OF US-- IN THE FUTURE-- WEREN'T SO LUCKY.
"WHEN KATE'S MIND RETURNED TO HER BODY, ONLY 1 WAS LEFT TO WELCOME HER."

A FUTURE WHEREIN KATYA AND I WERE MARRIED? DOES THAT MEAN THERE IS HOPE FOR US, STILL? IS THAT WHAT I WANT?
WITH RESPECT, RACHEL, YOU'VE PROVED MY CASE. WHAT DO I OWE A WORLD THAT IS WILLING -- EAGER -- TO SLAUGHTER ME AND EVERYONE I LOVE SIMPLY BECAUSE WE EXIST?!
SHE DIDN'T MENTION ME -- AH GUESS AH WASN'T PART O' THE TEAM. DID AH SURVIVE, OR WAS AH DUMPED INTO SOME UNMARKED, BACK-ALLEY GRAVE?
ALL THAT HORROR -- AN' IT WAS MYSTIQUE'S FAULT. MY FOSTER MOM WAS THE MILITANT WHO MURDERED KELLY.

ALL MY HOPES...
ALL MY DREAMS...
THANK HEAVEN IN RACHEL'S FUTURE I DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THEM TURNED TO ASHES.

FINALLY, THERE WAS JUST ME.
I FIGURED, WHAT THE HECK, NOTHING TO LOSE -- MAYBE I COULD TIMESLIP MYSELF BACK A DECADE OR TWO. ONLY PHYSICALLY INSTEAD OF PSYCHICALLY, LIKE I DID KATE, AND TRY TO PREVENT THAT FUTURE FROM COMING TO PASS.
I GOT WHEN I WANTED TO GO -- BUT NOT QUITE WHERE, 'CAUSE THIS ISN'T THE PAST I REMEMBER. MY ILLYANA SHOULD BE A KID, NOT A TEENAGER. MY STORM NEVER CUT HER HAIR OR LOST HER POWERS. MY MOM...
A LOT HERE IS DIFFERENT, BUT A LOT IS THE SAME. AND SOME -- SOME OF IT IS WORSE.
THERE WERE THOSE AMONG US WHO WANTED ONLY VENGEANCE. THEY WANTED THE SCALES BALANCED IN FIRE AND BLOOD. LIFE FOR LIFE. BUT THE X-MEN STOOD FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY NEVER LOST HOPE, NO MATTER WHAT.
BECAUSE OF THEM, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM -- OF A WORLD WHERE NORMAL AND MUTANT COULD LIVE IN PEACE AND FELLOWSHIP, WHERE THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM -- WE'D ALL JUST BE HUMAN -- NEVER DIED.

IF YOU TURN AWAY FROM THAT DREAM, KURT, YOU'LL DO MORE DAMAGE THAN YOU KNOW. WE MAY BE DOOMED -- OURS MAY BE A LOST CAUSE -- BUT SOMETIMES THE WAY WE LIVE AND DIE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SIMPLE FACT OF IT.
GIVE UP NOW, AND ALL THOSE SACRIFICES -- IN MY WORLD AS MUCH AS YOURS -- WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING!
WHAT IS THAT CLASSIC SAYING YOU ARE FOND OF QUOTING, KURT?
"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RE-SPONSIBILITY."
WANT IT OR NOT.
LIKE IT OR NOT.
VERY WELL, PROFESSOR--
--FOR THE DREAM.
THANK YOU, MY SON, WITH ALL MY HEART.
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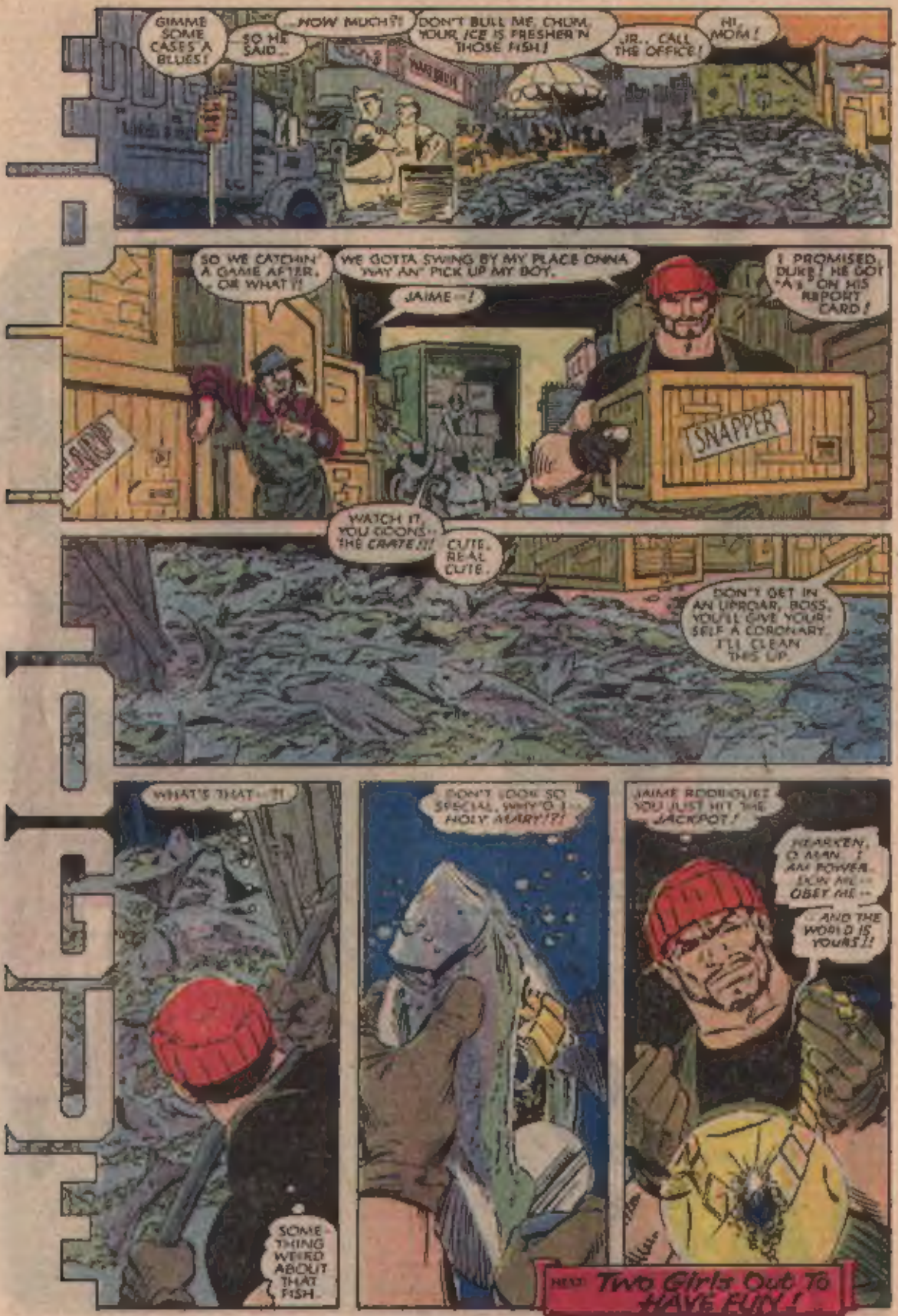
GIMME SOME CASES A BLUES!
SO HE SAID...
...HOW MUCH?!
DON'T BULL ME, CHUM. YOUR ICE IS FRESHER N THOSE FISH!
...JR., CALL THE OFFICE!
HI, MOM!
SO WE CATCHIN' A GAME AFTER, OR WHAT?!
WE GOTTA SWING BY MY PLACE GONNA WAT AN' PICK UP MY BOY.
JAIME--!
I PROMISED, DUKE! HE GOT "A's" ON HIS REPORT CARD!
SNAPPER
WATCH IT, YOU GOONS--THE CRATE!!!
CUTE. REAL CUTE.
DON'T GET IN AN UPROAR, BOSS. YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF A CORONARY. I'LL CLEAN THIS UP.
WHAT'S THAT--?!
SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THAT FISH.
DON'T LOOK SO SPECIAL, WHY'D I--HOLY MARY!?!
JAIME RODRIGUEZ! YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT!
HEARKEN, O MAN! I AM POWER. SUN ME--OBEY ME--
...AND THE WORLD IS YOURS!!
NEXT: Two Girls Out To HAVE FUN!